

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying similarity relation techniques between said items of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein each of said items is represented by a series of constraint variables having a domain in the database.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises modeling each of said descriptors in a desired sequence as a constrained variable.

Claim 4 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises applying a global similarity relation technique by combining individual similarity measures on all of said descriptors.

Claim 5 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises providing mathematical similarity functions.

Claim 6 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises providing similarity relations defined by given thresholds.

Claims 7-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said descriptors are expressed in terms of descriptor/value pairs respectively, and each of said values for said descriptor is selected from descriptor/value lists.

Claim 10 (Original): The method according to Claim 9, wherein each of said descriptors is associated to a descriptor type.

Claim 11 (Original): The method according to Claim 10, wherein said descriptor type comprises at least one type selected from the group consisting of Integer-Type, Taxonomy-Type and Discrete-Type.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of specifying further comprises specifying a first title and a last title of said items in said sequence.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said step of specifying further comprises specifying a morphological style of said items in said sequence.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said database comprises musical pieces.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said descriptors comprise titles, and said titles form a music program.

Claim 16 (Original): The system adapted to implement the method of Claim 1, comprising a general-purpose computer and a monitor for display of the generated information.

Claim 17 (Original): A computer program product adapted to carry out the method of Claim 1, when loaded into a general purpose computer.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein in step b, the similarity relation is applied to obtain two contiguous items of the sequence.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): A method of producing a sequence of items out of a database by specifying partial information, said method comprising the steps of:

introducing a global continuity constraint allowing to compute a morphing between items of said sequence;

taking as input partial information about arbitrary items in said sequence to be produced; and

applying similarity relation techniques between said items of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): A system adapted to implement the method of Claim 19, comprising a general-purpose computer and a monitor for display of the generated information.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying similarity relation techniques between said items of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said

sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity,

wherein said descriptors are expressed in terms of descriptor/value pairs respectively, and each of said values for each descriptor is selected from descriptor/value lists.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying means for applying similarity relation techniques between said items of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing means for producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying at least a partial description of at least one said item to appear in said sequence;

applying similarity relation techniques between said items of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying at least a partial description of at least one said item to appear in said sequence;

applying means for applying similarity relation techniques between said items of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing means for producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the items are music titles.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 19, wherein the items are music titles.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the items are music titles.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 23, wherein the items are music titles.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the items are music titles.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of music titles selected in a database, each of the music titles comprising a set of descriptors, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying similarity relation techniques between said music titles of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one music title to appear in the sequence, said music title is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring music title of said sequence with which said chosen music title shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing said associated music titles as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

Claim 31 (Previously Presented): An apparatus for generating sequencing information representing a sequence of music titles selected in a database, each of the music titles comprising a set of descriptors, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying means for applying similarity relation techniques between said music titles of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one music title to appear in the sequence, said music title is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring music title of said sequence with which said chosen music title shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing means for producing said associated music titles as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 19, wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 21, wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 21, wherein said sequence-generating step comprises transforming said at least one of said values into unary constraints in terms of constraint satisfaction programming techniques.

Claim 37 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 36, wherein said sequence-generating step further comprises subjecting said unary constraints to a processing of variables domain reduction.

Claim 38 (New): A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying similarity relation techniques between said items of said sequence under construction, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence, and, on the basis of properties of dissimilarities, so as to create a variation along said sequence;

producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said
sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.